

Sterling Trails

Hog Hill Trail: (1) Moderate

Unique Features: The Hog Hill Trail provides both forest tranquility and scenic vistas of landscapes shaped by farming. In particular, the trail offers an insight into the unique operation of the former Kristoff Brothers Pig Farm.

Length and Difficulty: The standard route (red color) is hiked clockwise, is roughly 2.4 miles long and crosses the open field on return. The open field bypass route begins at A as a wide, grassy lane, but later to become a rather narrow forest path to B, from where the standard route is followed in the opposite direction (2.7 miles in total). The trail route is hilly and is rated moderately easy.

Trailhead Address: 12 Merrill Road, Sterling, adequate parking across the road;

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Allowed recreational activities are hiking, snow shoeing, hunting and cross-country skiing. Mountain biking, horseback riding motorized vehicles and pets are prohibited. Check with the DCR for more details.

Butterick Nature Trail: (2) Easy, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: The Butterick Nature Trail winds through a delightful, undulating and forested landscape and includes a side trail to the well-preserved Town Pound. The trail forms a loop, where the return path is situated in a little valley, providing the visitor with the sense of leaving the busy world behind; 0.5 miles, easy;

Length and Difficulty: The trail is slightly under 0.50 miles roundtrip, including a side trail to the Town Pound. The trail starts at the cement stairway, loops around and ends at the corner of the parking lot where tennis courts once were located. The trail is rated as easy.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Given the terrain and the steps, the Butterick Nature Trail is suitable for walking and nature observation. Dogs are allowed provided dog owners clean up after them.

Trailhead located behind the Butterick Building; dogs permitted, Trail brochure available.

Pegs Pond Trail: (3) Easy, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: a short walk through a mature pine woods, scenic walk around 1/3 acre pond;

Length and Difficulty: 0.33 miles, easy;

Trailhead located behind shed at corner of Sterling Senior Center parking lot, 36 Muddy Pond Road, Sterling. dogs permitted.

Stillwater Basin Trail (4) Moderate, Scenic

Unique Features: The trail offers a lovely view out over the Stillwater River and the opportunity to walk along the shoreline of a secluded arm of the Wachusett Reservoir. A section of the trail follows a hill crest, while other parts meander through younger forest along hilly trails and through majestic mature forest on a wide, level path in the vicinity of the turn-around point at Bean Road;

Length and Difficulty: 3.5 miles roundtrip, hike is rated moderate as there are a number of hills.

Trailhead location: 5 Griffin Road an overflow parking lot opposite playing fields.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, snow shoeing, and cross-country skiing. Fishing in the Basin is allowed with certain restrictions. Check with the DCR for more details. Mountain biking, horseback riding motorized vehicles and pets are prohibited. No bodily contact with the water is allowed. No dogs are permitted. There maybe slash on the trail that has to be dodged.

Pine Hill Esker Trail (5) Moderate, Scenic

Unique Features: The trail starts at the site of a 19th century chair factory and joins a dirt road with stone walls in a mature forest, crosses a meadow and goes back into forested terrain. Unique for this trail are its eskers and kettle ponds and the views of a wetland pond where Rocky Brook flows into the Stillwater River. The trail is located on DCR watershed protection land.

Length and Difficulty: For clarity, the trail is divided into three sections: A, B and C, with one-way lengths of 0.65 mi., 0.45 mi. and 0.45 mi., respectively. The full hike, as described below, includes all three sections. The side loop on Sect. B is included on the return. The A+B+C trail length is 3.1 mi., while the two shorter versions, A+B or A+C, are both 2.2 mi. in length. The elevation varies between 428 ft and 540 ft, with several short steep hills. The difficulty is rated moderate.

Trailhead Location: 124 Beaman Road. Parking available at the Eight Point Sportsmen Club, 143-163 Beaman Road.

No dogs allowed.

Sterling Section of the Mass Central Rail Trail (6) Easy, Scenic

Unique Features: The trail is level and smooth (watch for bicycles and joggers) and is for the most part forested and offers a range of scenery, from woodland to wetland to vistas across West Waushacum Lake and The Quag. A half-mile loop foot trail, off the Sterling Section of the MCRT proper, takes you to the former location of the Waushacum Park Picnic Grounds.

Length and Difficulty: The round trip distance, including the loop trail, is 3.8 miles. Without the loop, the distance is 3.3 miles. The difficulty is rated easy.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: In keeping with DCR's mission of water supply and water quality protection, allowed activities include walking, biking, snowshoeing and cross-

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country skiing, open water fishing during designated DCR season and boating (only electric motors). Dogs, horses and all motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Trailhead Location: next door to 21 Gates Road, There is a dedicated parking lot. There is another trailhead at 17 Wauschacum Avenue.

Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road (7) Easy

Unique Features: The Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road is a pleasant and quiet trail on a wide old road. The trail initially passes wet and swampy areas, but after crossing the power line, the Gaylord Trail enters mature forest, and stone walls line this part of the trail. On older maps, the road is called North Nelson Road. The name change to Hardscrabble Road occurred only in 1971. What prompted this name change is, however, not known.

Length and Difficulty: The trail is only about 1.5 miles round-trip. From the trailhead at the lower end of Hardscrabble Road to the turn-around point at Upper North Row Road, there is about 150 feet of elevation gain. This old road trail is rated easy.

For the more ambitious hiker, there is a substantial extension to Fitch Basin, 1.9 miles round-trip. In addition to its length, this extension also has some quite steep hills. The Fitch Basin Extension is rated moderate.

Trailhead location: 10 Hardscrabble Road, parking on side of Hardscrabble Road

There is standing water on the Fitch Basin extension under the power lines that must be routed around in the spring.

Lynde Basins Trail (8) Moderate, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: This trail offers several interesting man-made and natural features. The trail passes by dams, gate houses and spillways, part of the former Clinton Water Works. In terms of natural scenery, it offers views to lakes and basins, crosses wetland areas and passes by the Wekepeke Brook with beaver activity.

Length and Difficulty: The round trip distance is 2.7 miles, and the trail has a number of short hills, some of which are moderately steep. The difficulty is rated moderate.

Trailhead location: 49-103 Heywood Road, parking in lot for 4 cars.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. Also mountain biking and horseback riding. All motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Allenwood Trail (9) Moderate, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: Scenic vistas towards farms and fields, later on views over Lynde Basins. Observe dams, gate houses and spillways as the visible remaining parts of the former Clinton Water Works. Crossing the Wekepeke Brook offers views out over beaver-created wetlands.

Length and Difficulty: The round-trip distance is 4.1 miles, and the trail has several short hills, some of which are moderately steep. The difficulty is rated moderate.

Trailhead location: 6 Heywood Road, parking in lot for 4 cars. Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing, as well as mountain biking and horseback riding. All motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Heywood Reservoir Trail (10) Moderate, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: The trail offer scenic vistas of the Heywood Reservoir, a lovely section along Heywood Brook and a short open meadow trail section near Sholan Farms.

Length and Difficulty: The Heywood Reservoir Trail is 2.67 miles in length. With the optional extension, the length is 3.23 mile. The elevation along the trail ranges from 592 ft to 772 ft. The difficulty is rated moderate.

Trailhead Location: Hapgood Road (abandoned road) at Upper North Row Road. Off-road parking for six cars.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing are permitted. In season and with proper licenses, fishing and hunting are also allowed. Motorized vehicles are prohibited. There are areas of standing water that must be negotiated and a small stream that in high water could be difficult to cross.

Wauschacum Overlook Trail (11) Easy, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: Woodland Trail leading to a pleasant view of East Lake Wauschacum.

Length and Difficulty: 1/4 mile, rated easy.

Trailhead Location: 6 Tara Lane



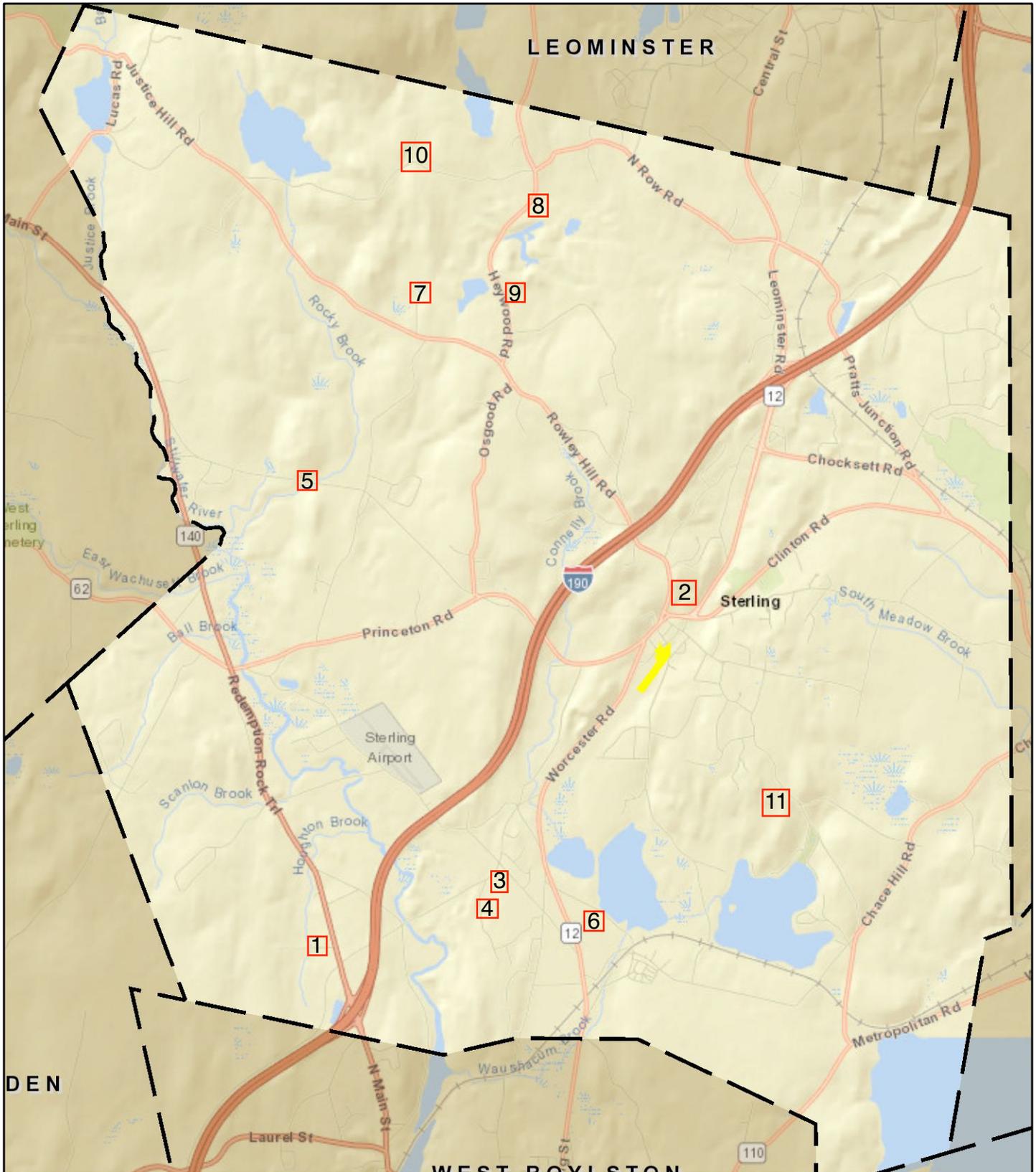
Sterling Trails

Sterling, MA

1 inch = 4448 Feet



April 9, 2020



Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.

Around 1924, Mary Ellen deeded the combined 13+ acres of land to the town as a recreational park for the enjoyment of the people of Sterling. Some years later, she agreed that part of the land could be used to provide the space for a future school, with the stipulation that the rest of the land remain as green space. On top of the hill was a pond for skating in the winter (located about midway between the trail and Meetinghouse Road, shortly after the top of the cement steps). For summer use, picnic areas and fireplace pits were popular. There were walking trails throughout the area which at the time was open meadow with few trees. It was a popular place to go on weekends. The original trail meandered from the cement steps up over the hill to the back parking lot, formerly the location of the tennis courts.

The Butterick School was built as a federal Works Project Administration project in 1934 or 1935 to provide employment for Sterling men during the Great Depression. Part of the hill behind the school was removed to make a level area to site the school. Due to the excavation, the cement and field stone steps and retaining wall were built to provide public access as part of the school building project. Park Street did not really exist – it was just a cart path - and the Goodnow and Waite houses and Baptist Church were located in front of the Butterick Building, with the Baptist church closest to First Church of Sterling.

According to Sterling old-timers, now long gone, there was a fairly deep cave used by the Indians halfway up the hill, but if it exists it is probably now hidden behind the cement steps.



The Sterling Town Pound is formed by a square of solidly built stone walls. It was likely in use for well over 100 years, up to the time of WWI.

A town pound (or enclosure) was part of early colonial history. It was high-walled and lockable structure mainly used for

holding stray sheep, pigs and cattle until they were claimed by the owners, after payment of a fine or levy.

In Massachusetts town pounds date back to 1635 and were in common use through the late 1800s. Early pounds were constructed of wood, but by 1740, due to extensive forest clearing, stone-walled pounds like the Sterling Town Pound began to replace wood pounds.

Flora and Fauna

Today the entire property is completely forested and the pond has dried up and vanished. Few evergreens are found on this property - most trees are white and red oaks, hickories and maples. Ash trees are also present though they may succumb to the Ash Pine borer in future years. With an open understory, low bush blueberries, viburnums and spring wildflowers



such as columbine and the diminutive Canada Mayflower grow. Near the Town Pound is evidence of the past can be seen in the form of

ornamental daylilies, barberry and vinca. In spring, the property is ringing with the sounds of warblers, chickadees and wrens. The chattering of Chimney Swifts is a summertime serenade in Sterling Center. Stone walls and downed trees provide shelter for small mammals like chipmunks, snakes and squirrels. In winter look for fox, raccoon, or coyote tracks.

Acknowledgments

The historical information contributed by Maryanne MacLeod is gratefully acknowledged.

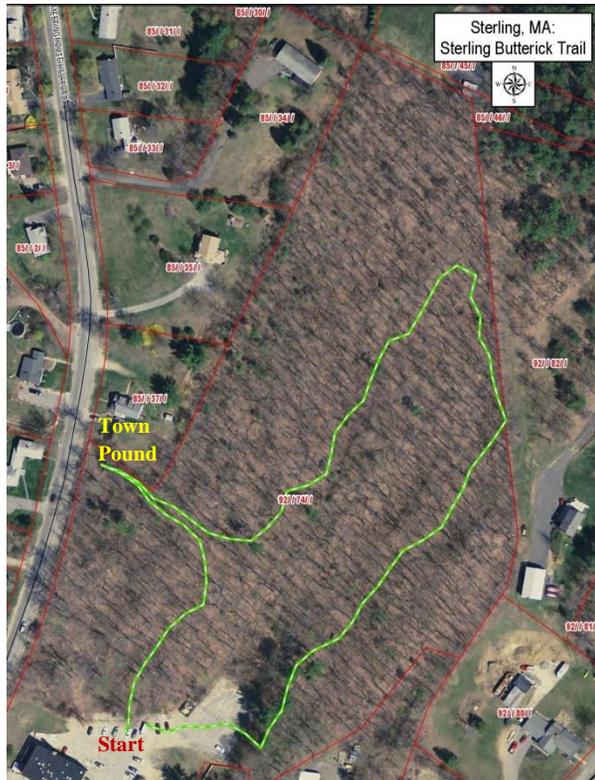
Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)

OSIC was established in 2003 as a permanent town committee, to broaden awareness of and enhance public access to significant open space, cultural and recreational resources.

Butterick Nature Trail



Butterick Nature Trail



Concerning the map: Note that the side trail to the Town Pound starts and ends at the main trail at the same spot.

Parking and Trail Location



There is adequate parking near the trailhead, located behind the Butterick Building, but expect fewer available parking spaces during regular business hours.

The Butterick Nature Trail is located on a 13+ acre town-owned parcel off Park Street. A wooden trailhead sign at the foot of a fieldstone and cement stairway behind the Butterick Municipal Building marks the entrance to the trail and property.

Unique Features

The *Butterick Nature Trail* winds through a delightful, undulating and forested landscape and includes a side trail to the well-preserved Town Pound. The trail forms a loop, where the return path is situated in a little valley, providing the visitor with the sense of leaving the busy world behind.

Length and Difficulty

The trail is slightly under 0.50 miles roundtrip, including a side trail to the Town Pound. The trail starts at the cement stairway, loops around and ends at the corner of the parking lot where tennis courts once were located. The trail is rated as *easy*.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities

Given the terrain and the steps, the *Butterick Nature Trail* is suitable for walking and nature observation. Dogs are allowed provided dog owners clean up after them.

Description of Butterick Nature Trail

0.00 miles: The trail starts at the bottom of the cement steps.

0.06 miles: Just before stone wall, a side trail on the left leads to the Town Pound.

0.10 miles: The side trail arrives at the Town Pound

0.14 miles: Return to the main path by the same path.

0.20 miles: Note the stretch of mossy rock outcroppings on the right side of the trail.

0.26 miles: The trail turns to the right and proceeds gently downhill.

0.32 miles: The trail turns gently to the right and enters into a little valley.

0.39 miles: Stone-lined hole in the ground, to the right of the trail. Purpose and origin unknown at time of writing.

0.43 miles: The trail continues on a short downhill into the paved area where the tennis courts once were located.

0.47 miles: The trail ends at the starting point.



History of the Town Parcel

This is a 13+ acre parcel of land belonging to the Town of Sterling. It is remarkable that the town owns such a substantial centrally located property. This parcel was donated to the town by Mary Ellen Butterick (1853 – 1941), who had come into money from her father, Ebenezer Butterick. He invented the tissue paper dress patterns, which revolutionized home sewing (Butterick Pattern). Mary Ellen first purchased land from the families that had built the Goodnow House, said to be the first house built in the center of town, dating to the early to mid-18th century, and the Waite House, dating from a little later.

Adjacent, the Baptist Church had been built on land purchased from the Brooks family in about 1843, but the church closed its doors in 1914 and joined with the Evangelical Church, whose building is still located on Main Street. In 1924, the Baptist church, which had been empty for 10 years, was purchased by Mary Ellen Butterick, and the building was razed. The remnants of the Goodnow and Waite houses were likewise demolished.

2.42 miles: Trail makes a moderately sharp turn to the right, away from the basin.

2.52 miles: Trail approaches the dam at the end of Upper Lynde Basin.

2.55 miles: Trail reaches the spillway.

2.59 miles: Trail junction with trail from the left.

2.70 miles: Return to the yellow gate at the trailhead.

Brief History of the Wekepeke

The name “Wekepeke” comes from the Nipmuck name, *Wickapicket*, for the Wekepeke Brook (this name also appears on older maps). It is likely that the name means “the place where linden (or bass wood) trees are.” Bass wood was an important material for the Nipmucks, *e.g.*, the long fibers in the bark were used for making rope and strings.

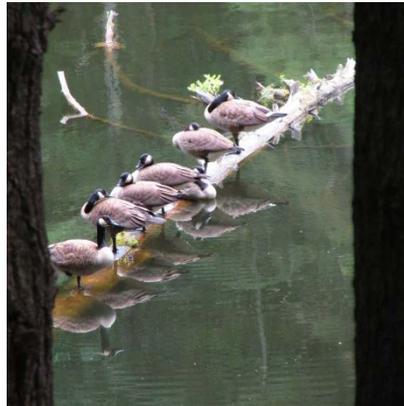
By the 19th century, the Wekepeke Watershed area was predominantly an agricultural region, to which smaller, water-powered commercial activities were added. A chair factory owned by J. Lynde was situated at Lower Lynde Basin. In the late 1800’s, Clinton was growing rapidly, and the local water sources were insufficient to meet the water needs. Piping gravity fed water of excellent quality from the Wekepeke Brook was the chosen solution, and to achieve this Clinton acquired the land in Sterling. The resulting system of ponds, dams, gatehouses and pipes is referred to as *The Clinton Water Works*.

On January 1, 1883, the first version of the Wekepeke water system was completed, which only drew water from the lowest reservoir, Spring Basin. Soon afterwards, efforts were underway to connect the other three basins (Fitch Basin; Upper and Lower Lynde Basins) to the system.

By 1926, after the Heywood Dam was built, only the Heywood Reservoir was used by Clinton. After the Wachusett Reservoir was completed and Clinton was allowed to draw drinking water from it, the Clinton Water Works were obsolete. By the 1960s the system was no longer in use.

Flora and Fauna

This trail passes by open water bodies, a beaver pond, a vernal pool and across some intermittent streams surrounded by forests of pine, oak, hickory and other hardwoods. In the wetter areas are jewel weed, cattails and a variety of ferns. Flowering trilliums are blooming in spring, and large groves of laurels put on a display in late June. Watch for poison ivy along the pond and some parts of the trail that get more sunlight. Some hemlock groves are suffering from needle loss due to the wooly adelgid an aphid-like invasive insect. Note the small round white egg masses on the underside of hemlock needles. Ducks, geese may be spotted on the water and kingfishers can be seen diving for fish.



Check muddy shores for animal tracks and frogs hopping into the water. Forest birds such as thrushes, blue jays, woodpeckers and wood warblers can be seen or heard.

Deer, bobcats, coyotes and bears are in the area, but the most commonly seen mammals are chipmunks and squirrels.

Acknowledgments

The establishment of the *Lynde Basins Trail* was made possible through the access granted by the Town of Clinton. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife holds a conservation easement on this property, providing public access for wildlife-related and other passive recreational activities.

Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)

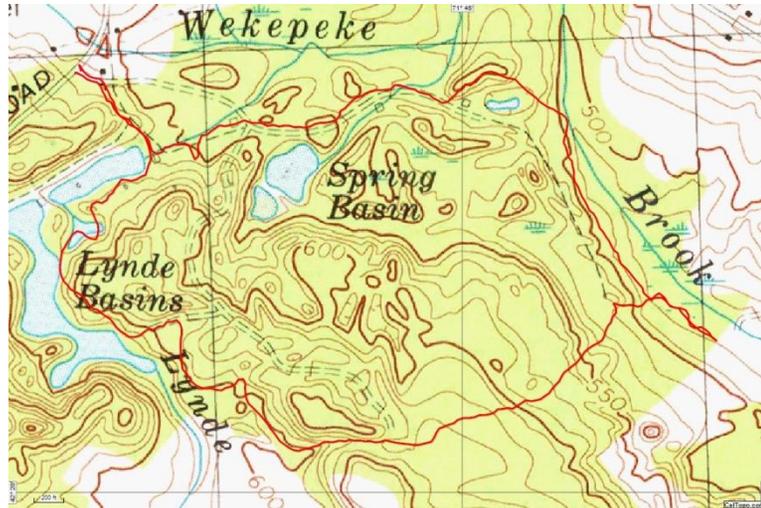
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LYNDE BASINS TRAIL



Lynde Basins Trail

mountain biking and horseback riding. All motorized vehicles are prohibited.



Parking and Trail Location

The trailhead is located at a yellow gate on the east side of Heywood Road, between the intersection of Upper North Row Road and Rowley Hill Road. The trailhead is 1.1 miles from Rowley Hill Road and 0.25 miles from Upper North Row Road. There is parking available for 3 – 4 cars.

Unique Features

This trail offers several interesting man-made and natural features. The trail passes by dams, gate houses and spillways, part of the former Clinton Water Works. In terms of natural scenery, it offers views to lakes and basins, crosses wetland areas and passes by the Wekepeke Brook with beaver activity.

Length and Difficulty

The round trip distance is 2.7 miles, and the trail has a number of short hills, some of which are moderately steep. The difficulty is rated *moderate*.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities

Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. Also

Trail Description

0.00 miles: Trailhead is at the yellow gate. The path starts level, wide and open (note a cellar hole to the left), and then enters the woods.

0.10 miles: A side trail from the right follows the edge of the Lower Lynde Basin. Keep left, observing the spillway for Lower Lynde Basin, with Gatehouse #3 on the dam. Shortly after the spillway, take the path to the left, along a fieldstone water channel.

0.29 miles: Wet area.

0.32 miles: To the left is Gatehouse #4 that controlled water flow from the settling basin into Spring Basin. There is a side road to the right. Continue straight and note the Spring Basin on the right.

0.44 miles: Path comes in from the right, leading to Gatehouse #5 and in a short distance see Gatehouse #6 to the right. In late May, flowering trilliums can be found in this area.

0.50 miles: After a rather wet and swampy area, the trail re-enters a wooded area. Within 0.1 of a mile, the trail bears left in front of Gatehouse #7, which was the chlorination station. From here water was piped underground to Clinton and Lancaster.

0.63 miles: A side trail comes in from the left. At the next trail junction, continue on the smaller trail straight ahead. Do not take the wider trail turning left and uphill.

0.71 miles: After a short and moderately steep downhill there is a trail junction, with side trail to the left. Continue straight, followed by curve to the right.

0.89 miles: Trail crosses 3 intermittent wet areas over the next 0.1 miles.

1.05 miles: Turn left and downhill at the trail junction on a spur trail, for the opportunity to view a beaver pond and to walk close to the Wekepeke Brook.

1.08 miles: Arrive at the Wekepeke Brook, the location of a historic ford and a large beaver pond. The trail curves to the right and follows Wekepeke Brook.

1.18 miles: Trail comes to an end at a stone wall, bordering a posted and privately owned meadow. Respect the landowner by not going any further.

1.27 miles: Trail is back to ford, turns left and uphill.

1.29 miles: Trail junction with outbound trail route. Continue straight and a moderately steep uphill.

1.33 miles: Trail turns sharply to the left, with small trail to the right. Shortly afterwards, the trail turns sharply to the right, with side trail straight ahead.

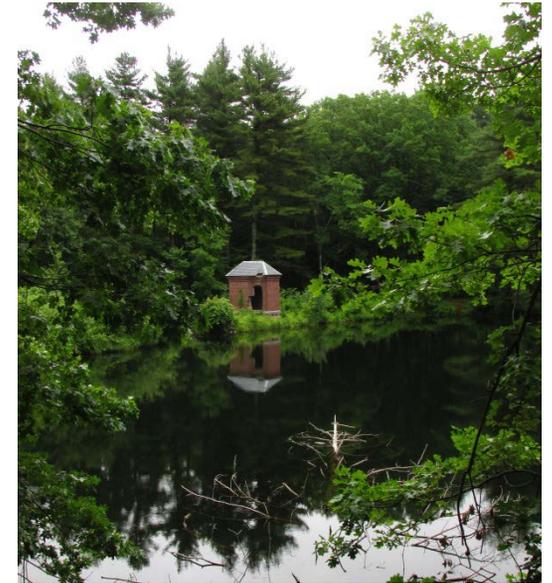
1.40 miles: Steep section of the trail, with some erosion. In 0.2 of mile, take a right turn at trail junction onto a larger road, continuing downhill.

1.71 miles: Slight left turn at trail junction to continue on side trail.

1.78 miles: Beginning of a fairly long downhill section of the trail followed by a small vernal pool on the left.

2.01 miles: Short trail to the left offers views to fields and Crystal Brook Farm on Tuttle Road.

2.10 miles: At the trail junction with a cluster of trees



in the middle, go to the left and soon see views of Upper Lynde Basin. Trail is winding, somewhat narrow, with protruding roots in some areas.

2.29 miles: Trail follows the edge of a smaller part of the Lower Lynde Basin and around an arm of the basin.

3.09 miles: Steep section of the trail, with some erosion. In 0.2 of mile, at trail junction take a right turn onto a larger road, continuing downhill

3.40 miles: Slight left turn at trail junction to continue on wide side trail

3.47 miles: Beginning of a fairly long downhill section of the trail followed by a small vernal pool on the left.

3.70 miles: At the curve of the path, turn left onto small side trail, to return to the Allenwood trailhead.

Note that junction is located next to side trail with views over farmland.

4.17 miles: Return to trailhead

Charles Allen and the Sterling Land Trust

The Allenwood Trail is named for Charles Allen who grew up on Crystal Brook Farm on Tuttle Road. He worked full time on the family farm, taking the reins upon the death of his father in 1939. Crystal Brook Farm was mainly a dairy farm, but apple orchards were also part of the farm's operation. In the 1980s, Crystal Brook Farm along with his brother Ralph's adjacent farm were among the first in the state to enroll in the Mass. Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, thus preserving the land for agricultural use in perpetuity.



In the mid-1990's Charlie Allen retired from farming and his grand nephew, Eric Starbard, took charge of the farm. Charlie built a new home on a large wooded tract that was part of the original Crystal

Brook Farm. In 2001, Charlie donated 27 acres of the land to the Sterling Land Trust, an action for which he was awarded the 2004 Conservation Advocacy Award by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

He was an avid bird enthusiast. In addition, he made a thorough study of the many varieties of trees, wildflowers and wild animals native to the New England area. He spent his retirement years perfecting his woodcarving skills in the production of numerous

beautifully carved and painted birds. He also devoted time outdoors, clearing and developing a system of marked trails through the woodlands around his house and on the Sterling Land Trust tract. He walked those trails daily to maintain his physical condition and especially to enjoy the beauty of the nature around him.

Flora and Fauna

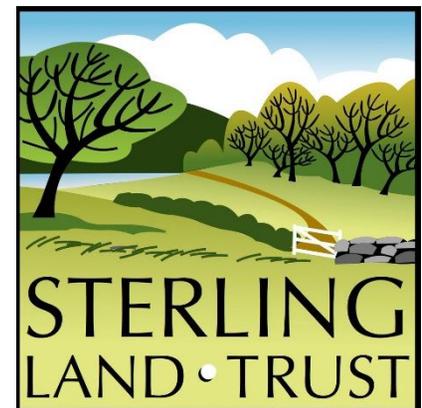


The meadows and fields bounded by stone walls frame a scenic view to Crystal Brook Farm on the first part of this trail. Watch for meadowlarks and bluebirds in the meadows. The forest is mostly oaks and white pine with some black cherry (note burnt potato chip-like bark), maples, black birches and hemlock. You'll first hear, then see nuthatches, chickadees and titmice in the woods. Oblong holes in dead trees indicate pileated woodpeckers, a crow-sized bird, at work. Enjoy the views of Lynde Basin and the wetlands along Wekepeke Brook. In spring, listen for frogs, spring peepers and wood frogs near vernal pools and other wet areas. In the summer, you'll notice the summer-sweet's fragrant white blooms. An abandoned beaver pond surrounded by beaver chewed stumps on the slopes is at the "beaver meadow" stage. It may evolve to a shrubby habitat and finally a forest, unless more beavers move in to re-dam the brook! Look for evidence of deer browsing shrubs, trees and shoots sprouting from stumps.

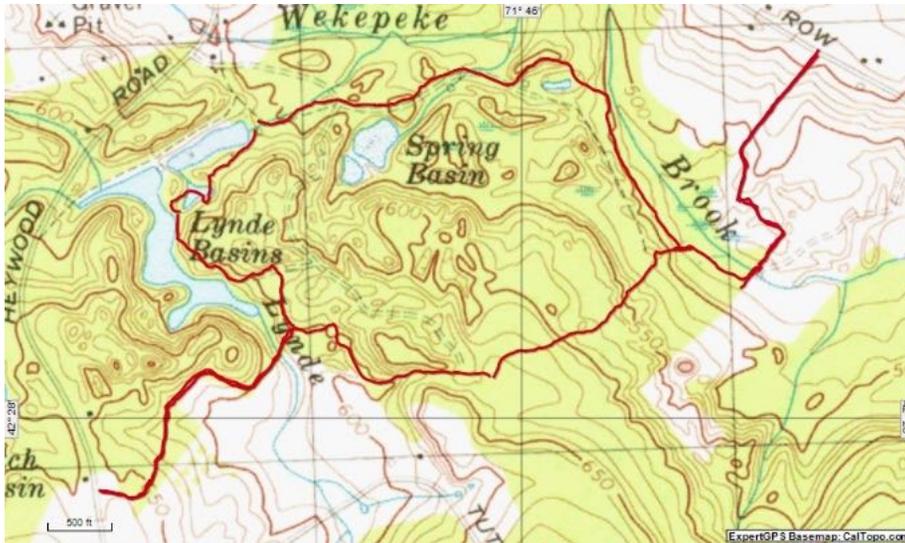
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ALLENWOOD TRAIL



Allenwood Trail



Parking and Trail Location

The trailhead is located on the east side of Heywood Road, 0.3 miles from Rowley Hill Road that connects with the center of Sterling. With care, the parking area should accommodate 4 to 5 cars.

Unique Features

Scenic vistas towards farms and fields, later on views over Lynde Basins. Observe dams, gate houses and spillways as the visible remaining parts of the former Clinton Water Works. Crossing the Wekepeke Brook offers views out over beaver-created wetlands.

Length and Difficulty

The round-trip distance is 4.1 miles, and the trail has several short hills, some of which are moderately steep. The difficulty is rated *moderate*.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities

Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing, as well as mountain biking and horseback riding. All motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Trail Description

- 0.00 miles:** Trailhead and kiosk
- 0.04 miles:** Crossing stone wall
- 0.06 miles:** Left turn, paralleling stone wall and forest boundary
- 0.20 miles:** Trail junction marked by a wooden post; make right hand turn;
- 0.22 miles:** Open view towards the Crystal Brook Farm and fields
- 0.28 miles:** Stone in memory of Charles Allen
- 0.35 miles:** Wooden post at the right side of the trail
- 0.39 miles:** Continue straight where faint trail goes off to the left
- 0.43 miles:** Bridge across wetland and a small stream. Trail continue uphill and slightly to the right
- 0.46 miles:** Trail ends at junction with larger forest road; turn left. Note short side trail to the right goes to vista point.
- 0.55 miles:** Keep left at trail junction, identified with a cluster of trees in the middle. Trail becomes narrower
- 0.65 miles:** View out over Upper Lynde Basin
- 0.77 miles:** Follow side trail that goes along the edge



of Lower Lynde Basin

- 0.91 miles:** Trail makes a moderately sharp turn to the right, away from the basin
- 1.01 miles:** Trail junction. Continue on large trail to the right. Observe spillway from lower Lynde Basin
- 1.12 miles:** Gatehouse #4 to the left controlled water flow from the settling basin into Spring Basin. Continue straight, note the Spring Basin on the right
- 1.24 miles:** Path comes in from the right, leading to Gatehouse #5. In late May, flowering trilliums can be found in this area
- 1.30 miles:** Trail re-enters a wooded area and 0.1 mi later turns left in front of Gatehouse #7, the chlorination station for the Clinton Waterworks
- 1.43 miles:** Side trail from left, continue straight. At the next trail junction, continue on smaller trail straight ahead. Ignore wider trail turning left and uphill
- 1.51 miles:** Trail junction with side trail to the left, after a short and moderately steep downhill. Continue straight, followed by curve to the right
- 1.69 miles:** Trail crosses 3 seasonal wet areas over the next 0.1 miles
- 1.85 miles:** At the trail T-junction, turn left and downhill, leading to the Wekepeke Brook crossing.
- 1.99 miles:** Near stonewall and meadow, leave the larger trail and turn left and downhill
- 2.01 miles:** Crossing the Wekepeke Brook on new bridge
- 2.03 miles:** After a short uphill, trail enters wetland to the left and stonewall to the right
- 2.07 miles:** Entering forest. Follow flagged route
- 2.17 miles:** Right turn at T-junction of flagged trail route and the larger road
- 2.21 miles:** Trail enters open field; SLT land bounded by row of pine trees. Keep left to reach the easement along the edge of the field. Continue uphill to the gate and North Row Road
- 2.43 miles:** Turn-around point at North Row Road. Return along same route until T-junction, located at 1.85 mile on outbound route
- 2.84 miles:** Crossing the Wekepeke Bridge
- 2.98 miles:** Trail junction with outbound trail route. Continue straight and up a moderately steep hill
- 3.02 miles:** Trail turns sharply to the left, then sharply to the right

Brief History of the Heywood Reservoir

The name originates with a farmer, C. Heywood who in the early 19th century owned most of the watershed from Rocky Hill to the west to Bee Hill to the east, and so it is today known as the Heywood Reservoir. In 1837, to supplement his farm operation, Heywood built a sawmill and a mill pond where the current dam is located.

In the late 19th century, Clinton was growing rapidly, and local water sources were insufficient to meet the town's needs. The chosen solution was to use gravity fed water from the Wekepeke Brook, and for this purpose Clinton acquired land in Sterling. The resulting system of ponds, dams, gatehouses and pipes is referred to as The Clinton Water Works. By 1897 water from Heywood Mill Pond was also used.

Around 1922, a simpler system was developed solely using water from Heywood Pond due to its higher elevation. To ensure sufficient water capacity, a dam was built in 1926, increasing the water supply nearly eight fold. A well-preserved gatehouse is located at the middle of the dam.

Flora and Fauna



Much of this trail runs through hardwoods and white pines with some patches of laurels. Listen for the vocal "teacher teacher" call of the ovenbird, a small ground dwelling warbler, or the ethereal notes of the wood thrush. Chickadees, woodpeckers and nuthatches are seen and heard as they flit in groups through the trees.

Deer, coyotes, foxes and fishers can also be found in these woods, though you may only see droppings or tracks in mud or snow.

In damp areas or after rain, look for the bright orange eft, a 2-3 inch salamander moving through the leaf litter or



on the trail. The eft is a juvenile newt spending its first years on land before returning to water to mature into the greenish yellow adult stage of its life. You might also spot a wood frog, light brown body with a dark mask, hopping in the leaf litter. Check the surface of the reservoir for insect life such as "water boatmen" skimming across the surface of the water or dragonflies and damselflies zooming through the air. Look for panfish such as pumpkinseed or blue gills in the water. During the fall and spring bird migration, ducks and the occasional loon are potential wildlife sightings.

On the short section of trail that cuts through an open meadow behind Sholan Farms, butterflies can be seen flitting to milkweed and other wildflowers. The field-loving birds like yellow warblers, swallows, and bluebirds are seen and heard. In summer, turkey broods (families) of hens and their poults spend much of their time eating insects in the grasses. In early spring, woodcocks, a small brown game bird with a long bill for probing the earth, reliably perform their aerial acrobatics and *peent* (high whistling) calls just after sunset or just before dawn.

Acknowledgments

The establishment of the *Heywood Reservoir Trail* was made possible through the access granted by the Town of Clinton. In addition, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife holds a conservation easement on this property providing public access for wildlife-related and other types of passive recreation.

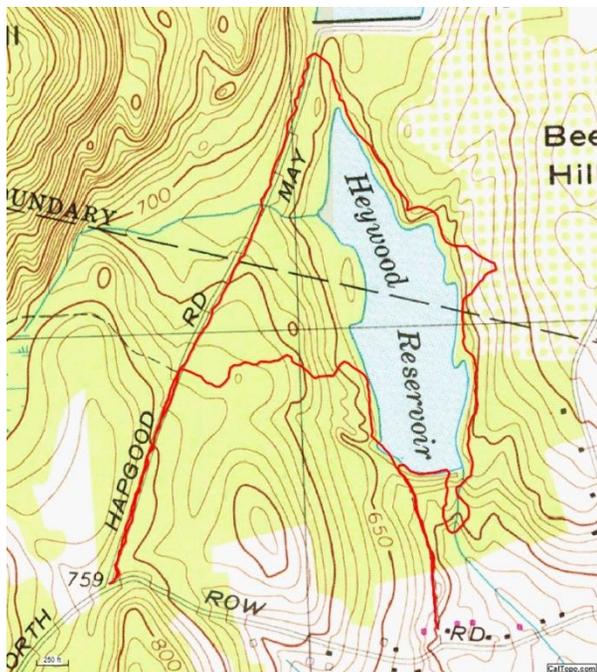
Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)

OSIC was established in 2003 as a permanent town committee, to broaden awareness of and enhance public access to significant open space, cultural and recreational resources.

HEYWOOD RESERVOIR TRAIL



Heywood Reservoir Trail



Parking and Trail Location

The trailhead is located at the junction of Upper North Row Road and the former Hapgood Rd., about 0.8 miles west of the intersection with Heywood Road. The parking area accommodates 6 -7 cars. The *Heywood Reservoir Trail* traverses a portion of Wekepeke Watershed lands owned by the Town of Clinton in both Sterling and Leominster.

Unique Features

The trail offer scenic vistas of the Heywood Reservoir, a lovely section along Heywood Brook and a short open meadow trail section near Sholan Farms.

Length and Difficulty

The Heywood Reservoir Trail is 2.67 miles in length. With the optional extension, the length is 3.23 mile. The elevation along the trail ranges from 592 ft to 772 ft. The difficulty is rated *moderate*.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities

Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing are permitted. In season and with proper licenses, fishing and hunting are also allowed. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Trail Description

The trail has minimal elevation variation and is for the most part easy, but there is a short, steep section, one stream crossing and several wet area crossings on stepping stones. Some areas have large roots in the path. Trekking poles can be helpful at the stream and wet area crossings.

0.00 miles: The first 100 ft or so is a dirt path, then becoming a paved path, the former public road called Hapgood Road.

0.33 miles: Follow large trail to the right.

0.36 miles: Occasional wet and muddy areas.

0.41 miles: The trail begins to follow a stone wall.

0.43 miles: The trail cuts through the stone wall. Shortly afterwards, notice on the right a large *erratic*, i.e., a boulder carried by glacial ice.

0.56 miles: Trail goes downhill towards the reservoir.

0.61 miles: The reservoir comes into view between the trees.

Soon, the trail bends to the right and follows the reservoir 's edge. Pink lady slipper orchids can be seen in the spring.

0.78 miles: The southern end of the Heywood Reservoir has been reached, with a large cleared area and a rope swing. Observe side trail leaving sharply to the right. Continue along the path on top of the dam.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: A delightful, 0.56 mile round-trip extension to the hike follows the trail to the right behind the reservoir dam, becoming an old cart road with stone walls on both sides, leading to a farm at Upper North Row Road and ending at a yellow gate.



0.81 miles: Trail reaches the gate house, located at the midpoint of the dam.

0.83 miles: About 50 to 60 steps from the gate house, watch for and take side trail to the right into the woods on a short steep downhill slope. After the slope, the trail is fairly narrow and winding. Watch out for poison ivy.

0.93 miles: On stepping stones, carefully cross Heywood Brook, flowing from the reservoir. Trail continues uphill and parallels the stream.

1.05 miles: The trail reaches the spillway and the Heywood Reservoir and continues along the east side of the reservoir. Watch for large roots in the path.

1.21 miles: Observe side trail to the right.

1.23 miles: Trail crosses a wet area on large stones.

1.32 miles: Trail turns to the right, uphill, out of the forest and into a hillside with shrubby vegetation. Do not attempt to continue straight, along the rock side of the reservoir.

1.39 miles: Trail junction with trail from Sholan Farms. Left turn to follow this new trail downhill and back into the woods.

1.47 miles: Trail returns to the edge of the Heywood Reservoir and curves right.

1.49 miles: Crossing of a wet area on stepping stones.

1.52 miles: Last crossing of wet areas on stones.

1.54 miles: Viewing area for the Heywood Reservoir.

1.83 miles: Trail reaches Hapgood Road, turning left to follow the gravel road back to the trailhead. If instead you turn right, the road will shortly take you to the Falls Brooks Reservoir, connecting you to the Monoosnoc Ridge Trail (blue blazed).

2.02 miles: Large trail goes off to the right, leading to Devil's Pulpit. Explore on your own.

2.14 miles: Rusty yellow gate, marking the boundary between Sterling and Leominster. Crumbling asphalt trail from here onwards.

2.34 miles: Observe trail to the left that was taken on the outbound part of the hike.

2.67 miles: Return to the trailhead.

